

## STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

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## Iowa Awarded \$8.8 million for Education Data System

Iowa Department of Education one of 27 states to receive grant

**DES MOINES, Iowa –** The Iowa Department of Education will receive an \$8.8 million Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The grant is for five years.

With this grant, the state will enhance its capabilities to provide consistent, reliable, and accurate quality data about Iowa education. Giving teachers and administrators the tools for deep data analysis offers them a more detailed picture of student achievement and the factors that influence student performance. With this data in hand, Iowa educators are empowered to help all students achieve greater success. The funds will also change the way student data moves across educational entities throughout the state, allowing for robust security and increased efficiency.

The Iowa Department of Education has worked over the past few years to enhance its statewide education data system and these funds will boost further development by:

- Generating a unified infrastructure for education-related data, which would combine information from multiple sources into one common system called EdInsight;
- Establishing interconnectivity between various education entities to allow greater analysis of information and enhance future planning capabilities;
- Allowing automatic transmission of data from school districts to the lowa Department of Education to improve the accuracy and timeliness of data;
- Enhancing tools needed for deep analysis of long-term education trends, not short-term snapshots of student achievement;
- Investigating linking education data with workforce information to offer deeper analysis of student preparedness;
- Developing a system that provides information on a student's complete academic career

Iowa Department of Education News Release Page 2 of 2

from kindergarten through college;

- Developing electronic transcripts for quick transfer of secondary student information to colleges and universities;
- Improving the ability to locate information on students transferring between districts.

The federal Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant program is designed to help state education agencies develop and implement longitudinal data systems. These systems are intended to enhance the ability of states, districts, schools, and teachers to make data-driven decisions to improve student learning, as well as facilitate research to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps.

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The lowa Department of Education works with the State of lowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.